

Application No.: 10/009,148
Office Action Dated: April 18, 2006
Response to Office Action Dated: May 19, 2006

In the Claims:

1. ~~(Currently Amended) A tooth cleaning means (1) consisting of monofilament or multifilament threads, wherein the threads (4,5) are highly elastically stretchable and under the effect of tensile forces their cross-sectional area reduce, characterised in that the threads by way of textile processing, specifically by one of the methods from the selection of braiding, weaving or knitting, are formed into a formation which has an abrasively acting surface, and that the tooth cleaning means is endlessly manufactured and formed such that the threads (4, 5) are connected amongst one another such that a severing is possible without the threads coming undone.~~ A tooth cleaning means comprising;

monofilament or multifilament threads, the threads being highly-elastically stretchable and under the effect of tensile forces so as to reduce a cross-sectional area thereof;

the threads being one of a braid, weave and knit formation defining an abrasively acting surface; and

wherein the threads are generally endlessly configured and connected among one another such that a severing of the threads is possible without the threads coming undone.

2. ~~(Currently Amended) A tooth cleaning means according to claim 1, characterised in that the means (1) consists of several monofilament or multifilament threads and these at any desired distance, to one another are unreleasably connected amongst one another (3) over a short distance.~~ A tooth cleaning means according to claim 1, wherein the threads include a plurality of monofilament or multifilament threads being unreleasably connected among one another over a short distance.

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3. ~~(Currently Amended) A tooth cleaning means according to claim 2,~~
~~characterised in that the unreleasable connection (3) is effected by adhering,~~
~~pressing or welding. A tooth cleaning means according to claim 2, wherein the~~
~~threads are unreleasably connected by one of adhesion, pressing and welding.~~
4. ~~(Currently Amended) A tooth cleaning means according to claim 2,~~
~~characterised in that at the connection location (2) there is arranged an oblique cut or~~
~~an oblique cut separating location. A tooth cleaning means according to claim 2,~~
~~wherein the threads at a connection location define an oblique cut or an oblique cut~~
~~separating location.~~
5. ~~(Currently Amended) A tooth cleaning means according to claim 1,~~
~~characterised in that the monofilament or multifilament threads (4, 5) are provided~~
~~at least with one thread in a colouring differing from the remaining ones. A tooth~~
~~cleaning means according to claim 1, wherein the monofilament or multifilament~~
~~threads include at least one thread having a color different from that of remaining~~
~~threads.~~
6. ~~(Currently Amended) A tooth cleaning means according to claim 1,~~
~~characterised in that there are present at least one thread (4, 5) with a bright and~~
~~with a dark colour tone. A tooth cleaning means according to claim 1, wherein at~~
~~least one of the threads has a bright and a dark color tone.~~
7. ~~(Currently Amended) A tooth cleaning means according to claim 1,~~
~~characterised in that at least two monofilament threads (4, 5) are integrated with~~
~~cross sectional areas differing greatly in size and which consist of the same or~~
~~different materials. A tooth cleaning means according to claim 1, wherein at least~~

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two of the monofilament threads are integrated with cross-sectional areas differing greatly in size with one another and which include the same or different materials.

8. ~~(Currently Amended) A tooth cleaning means according to claim 1,~~
~~characterised in that at least one monofilament or multifilament thread is coated~~
~~with tooth or gum caring means. A tooth cleaning means according to claim 1,~~
wherein at least one of the monofilament or multifilament threads is coated with
tooth or gum caring means.

9. ~~(Currently Amended) A tooth cleaning means according to claim 1,~~
~~characterised in that the monofilament or multifilament threads (4, 5) are~~
~~manufactured of latex. A tooth cleaning means according to claim 1, wherein the~~
monofilament or multifilament threads are manufactured of latex.